

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00718 061350Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----061353Z 047391 /53

O 061235Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6064

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L C A P E T O W N 0718

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US SF PFOR

SUBJ: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO SOUTH AFRICA

1. DFA SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOURIE THIS MORNING, MAY 6, CALLED ME IN TO EXPRESS SAG CONCERN ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF MEDIA STORIES ON VISIT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO SOUTH AFRICA MAY 20. FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA HAD FOUND IT NECESSARY TO ISSUE A STATEMENT ON THE MATTER.

2. WITH NEW YORK DATELINE AND CITING "A US OFFICIAL" AS SOURCE, SA MORNING PRESS PROMINENTLY REPORTS AMBASSADOR YOUNG WILL VISIT JOHANNESBURG MAY 19 AND 20 TO MEET BLACK LEADERS, ADDRESS STUDENTS AT WITWATERSRAND UNIVERSITY AND MEET WITH SA BUSINESSMEN. PRESS NOTES VORSTER WILL BE MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE IN VIENNA AT THE SAME TIME.

3. FOURIE SAID HARRY OPPENHEIMER OF ANGLO-AMERICAN HAD SPOKEN TO BOTHA A WEEK AGO ABOUT AMBASSADOR YOUNG VISITING JOHANNESBURG ON MAY 20 FOR THE WITWATERSRAND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT AND THE MEETING WITH BUSINESSMEN. BOTHA HAD SAID SUCH A VISIT WOULD POSE NO PROBLEM PROVIDED IT WAS HANDLED THROUGH PROPER CHANNELS. FOURIE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00718 061350Z

ALSO REFERRED TO THE MEETING OF SA CHARGE SHERER IN THE DEPT YESTERDAY, MAY 5, WHEN A PROPOSED RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES WAS DISCUSSED. THAT RESPONSE, FOURIE SAID, MENTIONED ONLY THE WITS SPEECH AND THE MEETING WITH BUSINESSMEN.

4. I SAID MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE BACKGROUND OF THE

PROPOSED VISIT WAS ROUGHLY THE SAME AS FOURIE'S EXCEPT THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD EXPRESSED THE HOPE HE WOULD ALSO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET BLACK LEADERS DURING HIS BRIEF VISIT AND ANGLO-AMERICAN HAD BEEN PREPARED TO BE HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD.

5. FOURIE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY BOTHA TO SAY SAG COULD NOT REMAIN SILENT ABOUT THE IMPLICATION OF THE MEDIA REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS COMING TO SA TO VISIT BLACK LEADERS WHILE THE PM WAS MEETING IN VIENNA WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE. THIS WAS NOT THE SAG UNDERSTANDING OF THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT, AND PRESS REPORTS MADE IT APPEAR THE SAG WAS SIMPLY BEING IGNORED. THE MINISTER WAS ISSUING THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WHICH WOULD BE PRECEDED BY AN EXPLANATION OF THE BACKGROUND ALONG THE LINES OF PARA 3 ABOVE: "ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE PURPOSES AND BASIS OF THE VISIT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE UNDERSTANDING WE HAD. IT WOULD ALSO APPEAR THAT THE NORMAL CHANNELS WERE NOT USED. IF THAT IS, IN FACT, THE CASE IT WOULD NOT BE CONVENIENT FOR US TO RECEIVE HIM. THESE VIEWS HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE USG." COMMENT: UNFORTUNATELY, IT WAS TOO LATE TO URGE BOTHA TO TAKE A DIFFERENT APPROACH; A STATEMENT ALONG THE FOREGOING LINES WAS ALREADY BEING CARRIED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (SAPA).

5. SPEAKING "OFF THE RECORD", FOURIE SAID HE WAS SORRY THIS PROBLEM HAD ARISEN AND ESPECIALLY AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME. IT WAS A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00718 061350Z

MATTER FOR THE SAG BECAUSE OF THE "LEGITIMACY" ISSUE. HE VERY MUCH HOPED A SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND. FOURIE EXPRESSED THE "PERSONAL" OPINION THAT THE MATTER "MIGHT" BE HANDLED BY MAKING CLEAR THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD ACCEPTED INVITATIONS TO SPEAK AT WITS AND MEET WITH SA BUSINESSMEN AND HOPED TIME WOULD ALSO PERMIT MEETINGS WITH OTHER LEADERS, AMONG THEM SOME BLACKS. FOURIE SAID, INCIDENTALLY, HE ASSUMED AMBASSADOR YOUNG WOULD WISH TO SEE ROBERT SOBUKWE.

6. IT WOULD SEEM CLEAR THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS ARE INDEED SENSITIVE ON THIS MATTER BUT HOPE IT CAN BE SET STRAIGHT IN A WAY WHICH WILL REMOVE THE EMBARRAS- SMENT THEY FEEL.

7. FOR THE MOMENT WE ARE RESPONDING TO THE MANY PRESS QUERIES WE ARE RECEIVING BY SAYING WE UNDERSTAND AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS ACCEPTED INVITATIONS TO SPEAK AT WITS AND MEET BUSINESSMEN, BUT WE HAVE AS YET NO

OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION. REGARDING THE BOTHA STATEMENT,
WE HAVE NO COMMENT.NELSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAPET00718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770159-1011
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770587/aaaacwqq.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0ac68a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2620155
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO SOUTH AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, US, SF, (YOUNG, ANDREW), (BOTHA, PIK)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0ac68a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009